

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 07618 201601Z

67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1274

SECDEF

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

S E C R E T LONDON 07618

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, XO, UK, US

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

1. DURING MY CALL ON FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN MAY 19 I NOTED THAT A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION ON DEIGO GARCIA HAD BEEN SENT TO THE CONGRESS. WE WERE AWARE OF THE BRITISH VIEW ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS ABOUT ARMS CONTROL IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND I THEREFORE WANTED TO EXPLAIN THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW THAT WE SHOULD PRESENT THE MATTER TO THE CONGRESS BEFORE ENTERTAINING THE IDEA OF TALKS WITH THE RUSSIANS. THE ADMINISTRATION FELT THAT IN THE POST-VIETNAM ATMOSPHERE IT WAS UNDESIRABLE AT THIS TIME TO MAKE AN APPROACH TO THE RUSSIANS. DCM NOTED THAT THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE ON DIEGO GARCIA MIGHT BE CHANGING.

2. CALLAGHAN SAID HE HOPED THERE WAS NO MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE BRITISH POSITION. THEY HAD NOT EXPECTED THE US TO HOLD UP THE PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION UNTIL WE HAD MADE AN APPROACH TO THE RUSSIANS. IN HIS VIEW THERE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 07618 201601Z

WAS NO REASON WHY THE /PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION SHOULD

NOT GO FORWARD IN PARALLEL WITH DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
RUSSIANS. INDICATING THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN HAD BEEN
DISCUSSED AT THE JAMAICA COMMONWEALTH MEETING, CALLAGHAN
SAID THAT HE COULD COPE WITH PRESSURES FROM THE
AUSTRALIANS WHO HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED ARMS LIMITATION
INITIATIVES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. HE WOULD, HOWEVER,
LIKE TO SEE THE US GET INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RUS-
SIANS. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT SOME KIND OF
LIMITATION WITH THE USSR SAY ON "SHIP DAYS" THE CONCERNS
OF THE COUNTRIES AROUND THE INDIAN OCEAN WOULD BE EASED.
IN THIS CONNECTION HE SAID THAT RAMGOOLAM AND MRS.
GANDHI HAD PRIVATELY INDICATED THAT SOMETHING OF THIS
NATURE WOULD BE HELPFUL, AND THEY INDICATED THAT THEY
APPRECIATED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN NOT BEING
UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE NAVY OF ONE COUNTRY.

RICHARDSON

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NNN

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